

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 011215

NODIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, EG, UNSC

SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN QUERY ABOUT WHAT U.S. COULD ACCEPT IN AN
SC RESOLUTION

REF.: USUN 121

1. YOU SHOULD TELL EGYPTIANS THAT WE APPRECIATE THEIR
CONCERN THAT THERE BE A MODERATE OUTCOME OF THE CURRENT SC
DEBATE AND THAT WE UNDERSTAND THEIR APPROACH TO US IS
MOTIVATED BY A SINCERE DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL. AS WE HAVE
SAID BEFORE, OUR OVERRIDING OBJECTIVE IS TO PRESERVE THE
EXISTING NEGOTIATING FRAMEWORK, SINCE WE BELIEVE THAT ANY
CHANGES OR AMPLIFICATIONS, EITHER DIRECT OR INDIRECT,
WOULD LEAVE US WITH NO FRAMEWORK ACCEPTABLE TO ALL THE
PRESENT PARTIES, AND IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT IN THE PERIOD
AFTER THE COUNCIL DEBATE THE POSSIBILITIES BE KEPT OPEN FOR
FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS. IT IS OUR FIRM INTENTION TO MAKE EVERY
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EFFORT TO MOVE THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS FORWARD FOLLOWING

THE DEBATE AND THE VISIT LATER THIS MONTH OF PRIME MINISTER RABIN.

2. WE HAVE CAREFULLY WEIGHED EGYPTIAN SUGGESTION IN PARA 6 REFTEL IN LIGHT OF OUR FOREGOING STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES AND STRATEGY. OUR CONCERN IS THAT A FORMULATION REFERRING TO "NATIONAL RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE" OR OTHER POSSIBLE VARIATIONS OF SUCH A FORMULATION WOULD HAVE THE EFFECT OF PREJUDGING A QUESTION WHICH IN OUR VIEW CAN ONLY BE--AND SHOULD BE--DEALT WITH IN THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS BETWEEN THE PARTIES CALLED FOR IN SC RESOLUTION 338. IT IS PRECISELY TOWARDS STIMULATING SUCH A NEGOTIATING PROCESS THAT OUR POST-SECURITY COUNCIL EFFORTS WILL BE DIRECTED. FOR THE COUNCIL TO ADOPT A RESOLUTION WHICH GOES IN THE DIRECTION SUGGESTED BY THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION WOULD, IN OUR CONSIDERED JUDGMENT, SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE OUR ABILITY TO MOVE MATTERS FORWARD IN THE GENEVA FRAMEWORK, AND WE WOULD THEREFORE HAVE TO VOTE AGAINST IT. WE DO NOT THINK IT WOULD BE HELPFUL FOR ANY OF US IN PURSUING OUR COMMON OBJECTIVES AFTER THE COUNCIL DEBATE IF WE WERE PUT IN A POSITION OF HAVING TO VETO AN EGYPTIAN-SPONSORED RESOLUTION. IN SAYING THIS, WE WANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT OUR POSITION IS BASED ON OUR BEST JUDGMENT OF WHAT IN THE LONG RUN WILL ENABLE THE U.S. TO MOVE THE

MIDDLE EAST SITUATION, INCLUDING THE PALESTINIAN QUESTION, TOWARD A JUST AND LASTING PEACE.

3. FYI: FOREGOING REFLECTS ESSENTIALLY THE EXCHANGE WE HAVE HAD IN CAIRO REFERRED TO IN PARA 7 REFTEL. END FYI.

4. FINALLY, YOU SHOULD SAY TO EGYPTIANS THAT IN VIEW OF INCREASING LIKELIHOOD THAT WE WILL HAVE TO VETO ANY RESOLUTION OF THE KIND THAT SEEMS TO BE EMERGING, IT SEEMS TO US THAT THE BEST OUTCOME WOULD BE TO HAVE THE DEBATE ADJOURNED WITHOUT A RESOLUTION. IN OUR VIEW ISRAELIS WOULD PROBABLY PREFER HAVE MATTERS FORCED TO A VETO BUT WE
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RECOGNIZE THAT THIS WOULD NOT LEAVE MOST PROPITIOUS ATMOSPHERE FOR OUR POST-DEBATE NEGOTIATING EFFORTS.

5. FOR CAIRO: YOU SHOULD GO OVER THE FOREGOING WITH FAHMY MAKING CLEAR THAT THIS IS LINE OUR MISSION IN NEW YORK HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TAKE WITH THE EGYPTIAN DELEGATION. KISSINGER

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